



U.S. Department of Transportation
National Highway Traffic Safety
Administration

NHTSA
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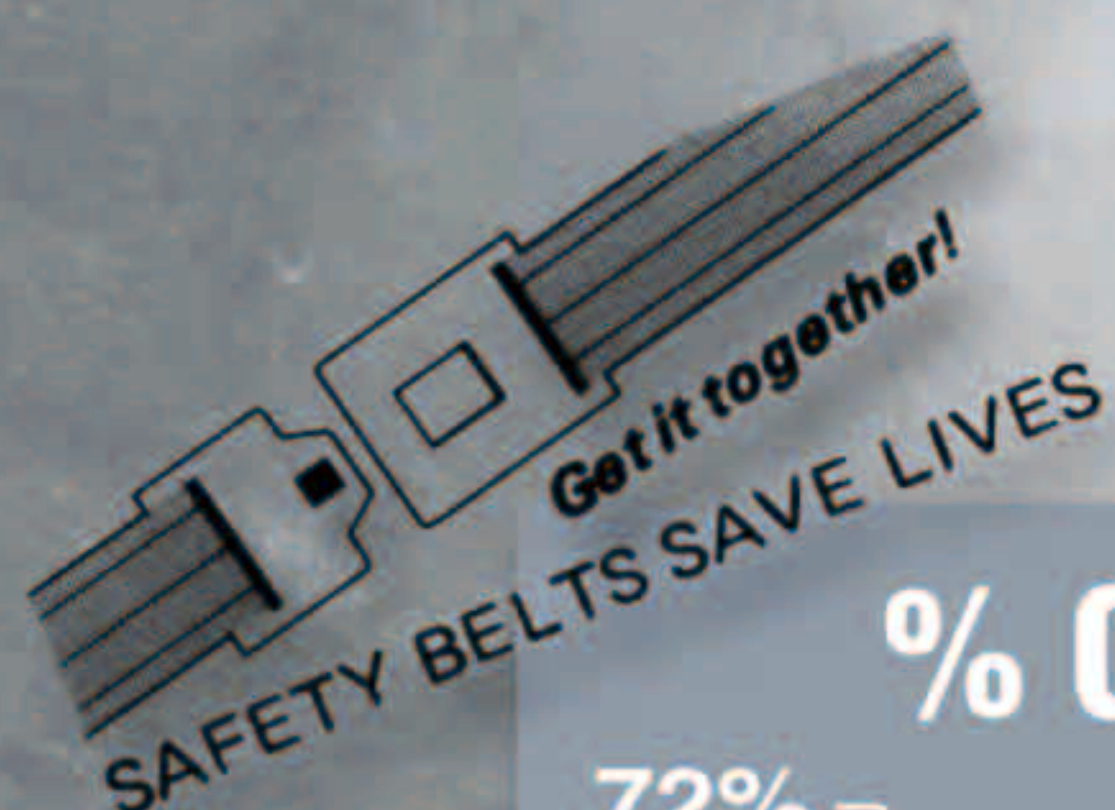
What a Difference Five Years Made!

1994–Present

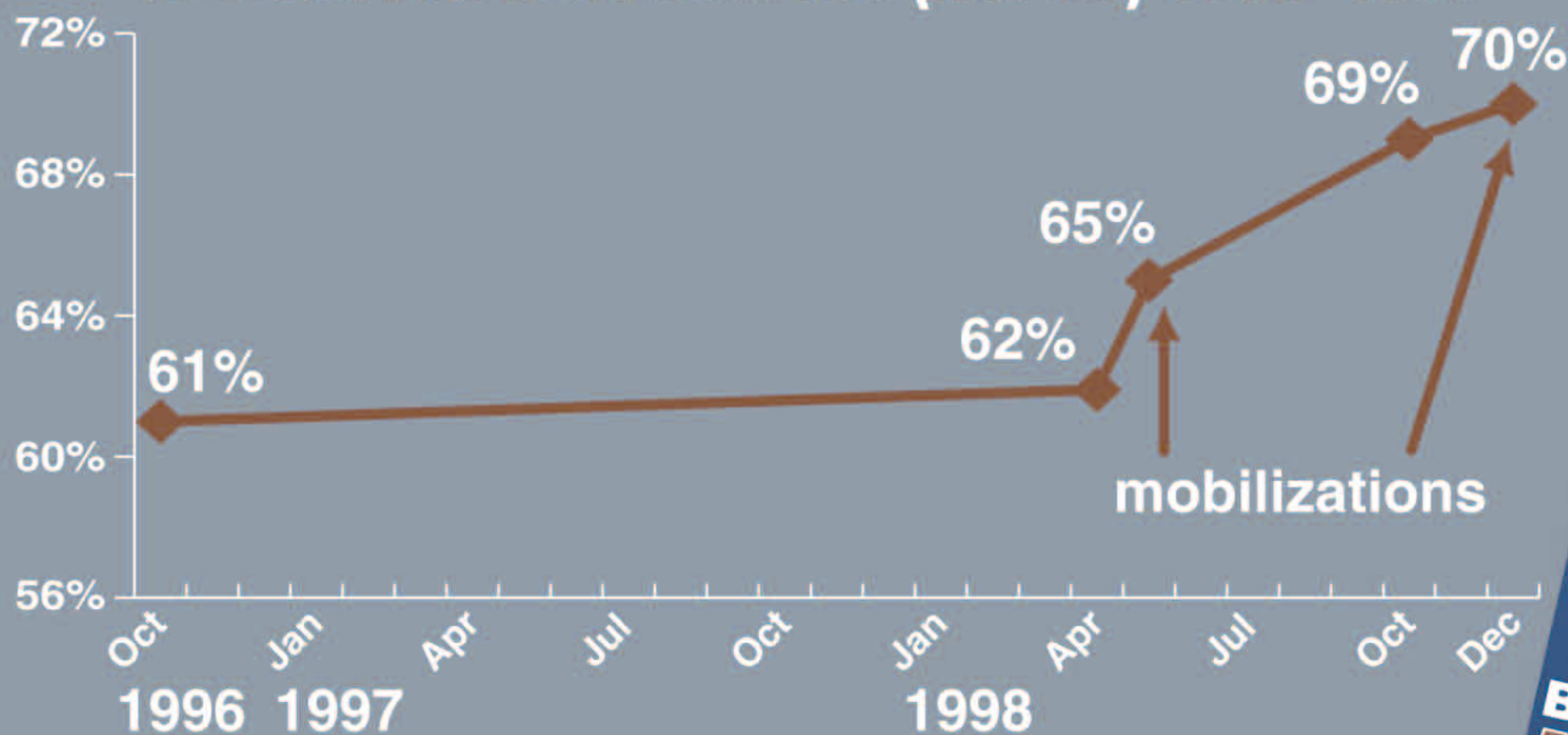
Buckle Up America and the Presidential Initiative for Increasing Seat Belt Use Nationwide

Goal 2: Lead a national initiative to address the most significant traffic and motor vehicle safety issues.

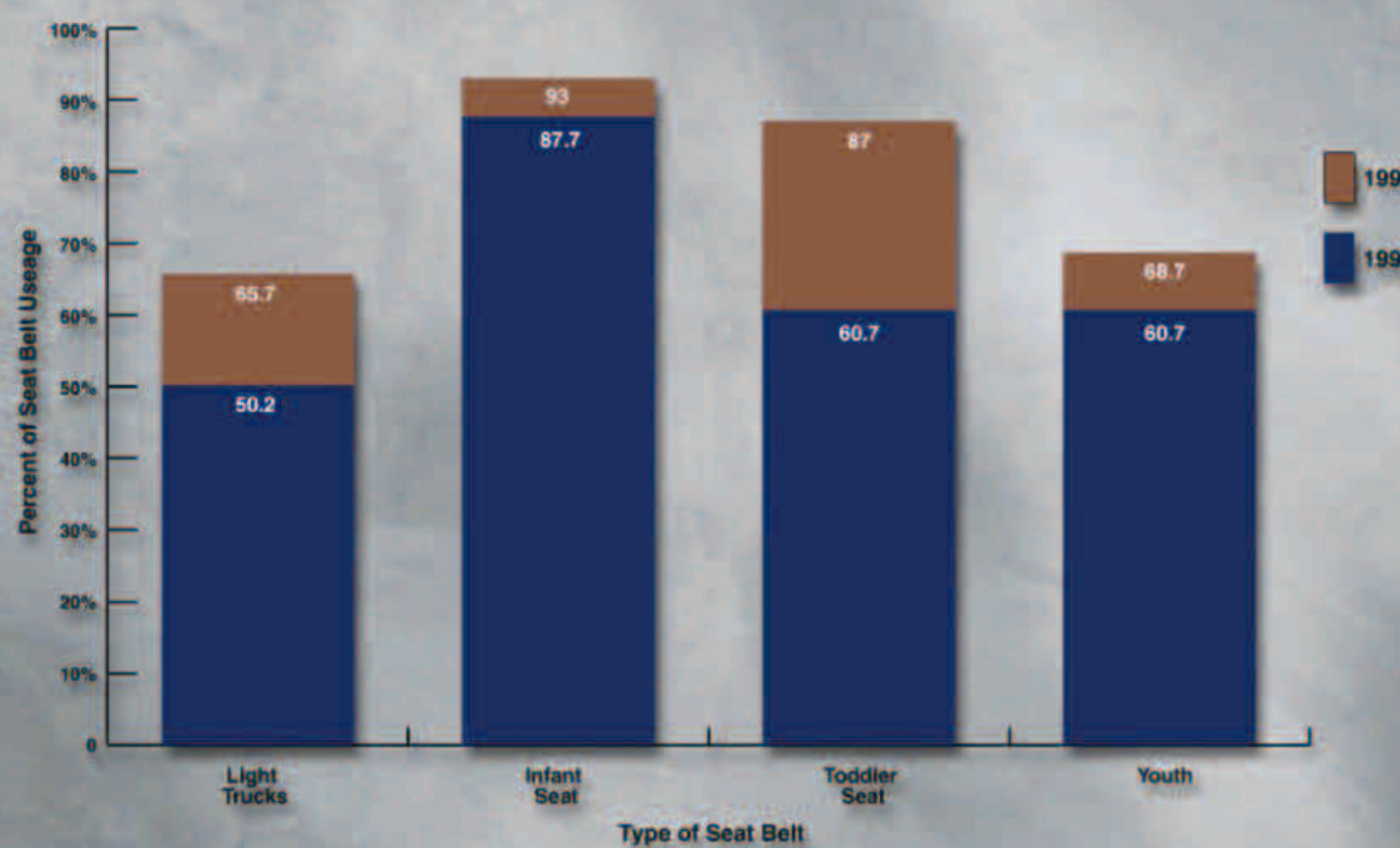
- Goals set by Executive Order in 1997:
 - Increase national seat belt use to 85 percent by 2000 and 90 percent by 2005.
 - Reduce child occupant fatalities (0 - 4 years) by 15 percent in 2000 and 25 percent in 2005.



% Observed Seat Belt Use (NOPUS) 1996–1998



- According to the National Occupant Protection Use Survey, overall safety belt use (passenger cars and light trucks) increased from 58 percent in 1994 to 68.9 percent in 1998. During 1998 alone, safety belt use increased eight percentage points. With this increased use, an estimated 1,500 lives may be saved every year.
- The number of states with primary safety belt laws increased from 11 in 1994 to 16 (plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) in 1998.
- In February 1999 the President announced a new NHTSA Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS 225) for a universal child safety seat anchorage system. Starting in September 1999, new passenger vehicles will be equipped with standardized anchorage systems that are independent of the vehicle safety belts. These systems will provide improved safety and increased convenience for users.
- A Blue Ribbon Passenger Safety Panel was formed in 1995 to recommend strategies for addressing the child safety seat misuse problem. A second panel was formed in November 1998 to recommend ways to increase the use of age- and size-appropriate restraints by children from ages four to fifteen. Panel members include representatives from the auto and child restraint industries, as well as medical, health, safety, and intergovernmental officials.



"Team work is the heart of any successful operation. When we set our goals in the Strategic Plan back in 1994, we built in a foundation that empowered the NHTSA employee and sparked individual creativity and innovation. The resulting accomplishments of working as a team over the past half decade have been nothing short of magnificent. Everyone at NHTSA should feel we are moving forward. Because we are. Each one of you should feel very proud of your individual contributions to the overall momentum that is making highways safer for us all. We are, after all, people saving people. It's what we do – and what all of you do so well."

R. H. [Signature]

Congratulations and Thank You to All Members of the NHTSA Family for a Job Well Done!

[Signatures of NHTSA family members]